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Extended essay cover

Diploma Programme subject in which this extended essay is registered: World Studies: Language, culture & identity
(For an extended essay in the area of languages, state the language and whether it is group 1 or group 2.)

Title of the extended essay: How effective are the government proposed
solutions towards solving the issue of migrant children schooling
in China?

Candidate's declaration

This declaration must be signed by the candidate; otherwise a grade may not be issued.

The extended essay I am submitting is my own work (apart from guidance allowed by the International Baccalaureate).

I have acknowledged each use of the words, graphics or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

I am aware that the word limit for all extended essays is 4000 words and that examiners are not required to read beyond this limit.

This is the final version of my extended essay.

Supervisor's report and declaration

The supervisor must complete this report, sign the declaration and then give the final version of the extended essay, with this cover attached, to the Diploma Programme coordinator.

Name of supervisor (CAPITAL letters)

Please comment, as appropriate, on the candidate's performance, the context in which the candidate undertook the research for the extended essay, any difficulties encountered and how these were overcome (see page 13 of the extended essay guide). The concluding interview (viva voce) may provide useful information. These comments can help the examiner award a level for criterion K (holistic judgment). Do not comment on any adverse personal circumstances that may have affected the candidate. If the amount of time spent with the candidate was zero, you must explain this, in particular how it was then possible to authenticate the essay as the candidate's own work. You may attach an additional sheet if there is insufficient space here.

began her Extended Essay with a lot of enthusiasm and momentum. She had a topic that she was interested in began to gather resources and information. She encountered several high and low points throughout the writing process. When all was said and done I felt confident with the paper that she produced.

This declaration must be signed by the supervisor; otherwise a grade may not be issued.

I have read the final version of the extended essay that will be submitted to the examiner.

To the best of my knowledge, the extended essay is the authentic work of the candidate.

I spent hours with the candidate discussing the progress of the extended essay.

Assessment form (for examiner use only)

Criteria	Achievement level					
	Examiner 1	maximum	Examiner 2	maximum	Examiner 3	
A research question	2	2		2		
B introduction	1	2		2		
C investigation	2	4		4		
D knowledge and understanding	2	4		4		
E reasoned argument	2	4		4		
F analysis and evaluation	3	4		4		
G use of subject language	3	4		4		
H conclusion	2	2		2		
I formal presentation	2	4		4		
J abstract	1	2		2		
K holistic judgment	2	4		4		
Total out of 36		22				

How effective are the government proposed
solutions towards solving the issue of
migrant children schooling in China?

Candidate Name:

Candidate Number:

School:

Examination Session: May 2014

Subject: World Studies – Culture, Language and Identity

Word Count: 3144

Abstract:

China has been the country with the fastest growing economy in the entire world or the past ten years. This economic boom has led to the development of many cities, followed by a wave of increasing urbanization in China. As much positive effects urbanization has brought to China's economy, problems arise when the number climbs too fast. Due to the strict household registration laws in China, the admission of the migrant children who have migrated to the urban cities with their families due to the urbanization is becoming a problem that has attracted many attentions. However as much effort the government is putting forth to eliminate this problem by establishing migrant schools and altering household registration laws, the issue remains and is increasing in severity year by year. Therefore leading the question to boil down to how effective are the solutions proposed towards solving the issue of admission of migrant children in China?

This essay will answer this research question by examining and evaluating the current situation of urbanization, the problems and consequences faced by the migrant children due to lack of education, and solutions offered by the government. The scope of this essay will include the two subjects of economics and anthropology and take two different perspectives on the research question.

The conclusion reached at the end of this essay shows that the solutions proposed by the government towards the problem of admissions for migrant children in China are not effective enough to completely eliminate the issue, but on enough to alleviate the impact temporarily. Therefore the Chinese government should focus on reallocating resources to the suburban

villages to solve the problem and still be able to maintain an economic boost to the country.

Word Count: 285

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I. Introduction

China has been one of the world's fastest growing countries since the twenty first century. The nation that was once nothing but an isolated land has gradually come within the scope and caught the attention of many other nations in the world. Throughout most of her history, China has been a country mainly focused on agriculture. It hasn't been until recent years when some provinces finally shift their attention to industrialization. The consequence of China being so focused on agriculture for the majority of its history is the mass of the population are farmers and live in the countryside villages of China. As China's economy is rapidly multiples, it also faces the urbanization increasing year by year.

Urbanization is the physical growth of urban areas as a result of rural migration. Farmers that have lived in the countryside have decided to move to the city in search of job opportunities and employment opportunities. China is one of the fastest economically growing countries in the world, so there has been a lot of migrant families moving into the cities that withhold certain wanted opportunities. Therefore a new problem arises when the limited educational resources provided by the government for the children in the cities is unable to cover all the education of the children including the migrant children. This issue is crucial to the development of the Chinese society because the children are the

next generation of the society. It is therefore important to make sure all children receive the fair amount of education they deserve.

So the research question is oriented towards how effective are the solutions the government proposed towards solving the issue of the admission of migrant school children in China? This research question mainly deals with two major topics, economics and anthropology. Economics is the study of the allocation of the resources in a society, and relates to the research question in that the main reason for the occurrence for urbanization in China is due to the rapid economic growth, which leads to the need of labor in the cities. Thus the farmers find their incentive to migrate from the rural countryside to the cities with their families. Anthropology, the study of humankind, is also related to this issue in that both urbanization and migration are parts included in the study of humans.

In China, the law system that governs the migration of citizens is called the Household Registration System. The Household Registration system is a system where the population is counted in a certain province or city, and indicates which province or city a particular person belongs to. This system states that migrant children are now allowed to go to school in the cities if their household is still registered as being from the countryside. Migrant

children are children whose families have moved from the rural countryside areas of China into the cities, but their Household Registration system remains to be assigned to the countryside. Therefore the migrant children who have come from the countryside to the city will be unable to attend the normal schools that normal children from the city is attending.

To counteract this problem, the Chinese government has decided to establish migrant schools, which are schools that are established by the government to solve the issue of the admission of migrant children by accepting only migrant children in their school. However the question then boils down to how effective are the solutions the government proposed towards solving the issue of admission of migrant school children in China? By analyzing a variety of sources and research, it is evident that the solutions proposed by the government to solve issues regarding the admissions of migrant school children in China is not effective to solve the entire problem, but only to alleviate it for a limited amount of time.

II. Urbanization in China

Although research shows that "China's economic expansion slowed to 7.8 percent year on year in 2012 amid external jitters and domestic woes, data from the National Bureau of Statistics shoed on Friday. The growth rate, the slowest one since 1999, was down

from 9.3 percent in 2011 and 10.4 percent in 2010" ("China's GDP growth eases to 7.8% in 2012") and the annual GDP growth rate is decreasing, the rate of urbanization in China is increasing as the economy is still in a growing phase. Due to the fast growing economy in China, more and more families from the rural countryside villages are coming into the city in hope to find a job that will have a better future and earning for their family.

Now one may ponder if that urbanization is beneficial to the economic development and growth of China by increase both aggregate demand and aggregate supply why is it still categorized as a problem? Urbanization can increase aggregate demand by increasing all of consumption, investment, government spending and net export by having more people living in the city as the country is becoming more and more industrialized. Urbanization can also increase aggregate supply by increasing as more and more people are working in the city, the government may use supply-side policies to boost the economy. A country seeking to the rate of economic growth and full employment level of real output will use supply-side policies to increase the quantity and quality of the factors of production. Thus the economic will actually grow due to urbanization.

III. Internal Migration in China

The migration of families from suburban villages to the urban cities in China is an example of internal migration, which by definition, represents migration that occurs within the boundaries of one single country. The common motivation that drives internal migration is that the families are "Often unable to sustain themselves in the rural backlands, people all over the world continue to move to large urban areas, hoping to find a better life" (Haviland, Prins, Walrath, and McBride 335-336), thus they want to seek better opportunities in the large urban cities. Therefore the migration of the families from the suburban villages develop into a trend, or chain migration, because it is both beneficial to their monetary income and to increase the size of workforce in the city to aid development. Chain migration is a chain of multiple migrations within the same defined group of people. In this case, the families who live together in the same village can be identified as a defined group of people, as their living habits are very similar and are in constant interaction with each other. Therefore it is very likely that after one family migrates into the city, it will cause a chain migration within the entire village, all wanting to seek equal opportunities in the cities.

IV. Migrant Children in China

As internal migration is occurring in China, urbanization has grown to be a problem in China because of the strict Household Registration system that it holds. The Household Registration system, as previously defined, forbids migrant children to go to normal schools in the city in China. Further problems that arise with the Household Registration system will be that migrant children do not receive proper education when they move into the city with their families, and as the children are the next generation of the society, not providing proper education for those migrant children will create great future costs to the nation as a whole in the future.

Another consequence that follows migration is that the children will "face great challenges as poor newcomers in these new societies – all the more so because they may encounter racism and discrimination" (Haviland, Prins, Walrath, and McBride 335-336) which will affect the mental health of the migrant children. When a migrant family moves into the cities, it is automatically categorized in the bottom of the social hierarchy. This is because of the stereotype that migrant families are economically and psychologically less advanced than those who hold a city's household registration. Thus bringing hardship to those children who hold a suburban household registration.

The third problem with the strict Household Registration system is that the migrant children will be left alone on the streets if they are unable to attend school. This will increase crime rates to the entire city as the migrant children will have nothing to do but wonder on the streets due to lack of education. According to research, "... confirm that education significantly reduces self-reported participation in both violent and property crime..." (Lochner, and Moretti 155-189). In most migrant families, the parents are out working day and night so the child is normally left home for an entire day without adult guidance. Therefore without their parents teaching them the ethics and moral principles and by not attending schools, the crime rates will increase. However although the results of the research performed by Lochner and Moretti confirm the hypothesis that education does in fact have an effect on violence and crime rate, the experiment itself has the chance of containing bias; there may be limitations to this experiment because of the possibility that human science investigations may be largely influenced by personal anticipations unintentionally and involuntarily.

V. Government Solutions & Consequences

In order to attempt to solve the problems stated above, the Chinese government has announced their plans, which is mainly to establish migrant schools in those city packed with migrant families and

provide education for migrant children there. As previously defined, migrant schools are schools that accept migrant children regardless of where their Household Registration is assigned. In this way, the number of uneducated migrant children who lead to many serious outcomes and problems will be reduced as the migrant children who follow their families into the city will be able to receive education. However now a new problem arises as people start to wonder how effective is this solution of establishing migrant schools in cities actually help solve the admission problem of migrant children in China? In other words, does this solution, proposed by the government, actually cure the roots of the problem or is it only able to mask the affects for a limited amount of time?

In order to be able to fully judge the effectiveness of establishing migrant schools to solve the problem of admissions of the migrant children, it is important to view both sides of the argument. Some positive benefits that establishing migrant schools will bring to the society as a whole is that it provides education for the migrant children in the cities and it can increase the overall educational level of the nation. The kids of the generation will grow up to become the supporting citizens of the nation's development, so it is important to have a higher overall level of education as the country with the higher education level will be able to develop more efficiently than those with lower education levels. The second benefit to this

solution of establishing migrant schools is that it lowers the number of wandering migrant children on the streets. A healthy nation cannot have its next generation wandering on the streets, as that will naturally create even more problems such as gangs and underground gatherings which gives no good to the development of a child. Another benefit to establishing migrant schools is that in the Chinese education syllabus, there is a mandatory course called ethics, morality and humanity that all children are required to attend. In this course, children will be taught human ethics and what it means to be a moral person guided with moral principles. The migrant children who were never educated would miss this course and lack knowledge of ethics. Therefore the migrant schools will be able to educate the children on ethics and morality to lower crime rates and build a safer society. By summing up the three pros of establishing migrant schools, the largest overstretched benefit that all three will contribute to is that it builds strong children, who are the next generation, to build a stronger and safer society for humankind.

However just like any debated issues in this world, establishing migrant school does also carry negative impacts that are worthy of consideration when one is trying to decide how effective is this solution proposed by the government in curing the problem of admissions for migrant children. First of all, like in any nation or

place in the world, there are limited resources. These limited resources will be allocated to the regular schools for the children with Household Registrations from the city before it can be allocated to the migrant schools. So at some degree, although the migrant schools are official schools established by the government, it is still inferior compared to those schools for normal children whose Household Registration system is assigned to the city. Another negative side of establishing migrant schools in the city is that it would be impossible for the government to keep on building an unlimited number of migrant schools to educate the growing population of migrant family. As mentioned before, the economy in China is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, so it would be hard for the government to keep up with establishing migrant schools to the growing economy.

表1：农民工数量 [Graph 1: Migrant Worker Statistics]

单位：万人 [Unit: Ten-thousands]

	2008 年 [2008]	2009 年 [2009]	2010 年 [2010]	2011 年 [2011]	2012 年 [2012]
农民工总量 [Total Migrant Workers]	22542	22978	24223	25278	26261

(中华人民共和国国家统计局 [National Bureau of Statistics of China])

According to the statistics released by the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBSC), the number of migrant workers by the end of 2012 was around 262,610,000. Compared to the number by the end of 2011, 252,780,000, it has increase by 9.83 million and acquired a growth rate of 3.9% (中华人民共和国国家统计局 [National Bureau of Statistics of China]). The statistic shows that there is a growing trend of urbanization in China year by year. As the number of families from the countryside that are migrating to the city increase, the number of migrant children demanding education will also increase. The reliability of the National Bureau of Statistics of China as a source is comparatively higher than other sources due to the fact that it is run by the government and is aimed to objectively report statistics regarding migrant worker migrations.

The third problem with establishing migrant schools is that in the end migrant schools are different from normal schools, as even on the name, so the migrant children within it will still feel uncomfortable and not at home. This will also affect the psychological development of the children as they may be bullied or teased on the streets by other children. If this problem is severe then this will also lead to twisted personalities and create harm to the entire society. Uneducated migrant children may also, the other way around, develop into bullies to harass others since they have had no education. Professor Farrington from the University of

Chicago describes bullying as "... Causes immediate harm and distress to victim and has negative long-term consequences for the victim's mental health. It also has negative consequences for the bully since bullying maybe reinforced by enjoyment and status, and hence the bully may become more likely to engage in other aggressive behavior" (Farrington 381-458). However, like many other human science experiments and investigations, the level of reliability is not exceptionally high due to the existence of a possibility of personal bias.

All three of these cons summed together will created the largest problem of establishing migrant schools, and will show the answer to the question in that this solution proposed by the government is in fact not effective enough to solve this problem that urbanization has brought mainly because it does not cure the problem but only alleviates for a temporary amount of time.

VI. Evaluation

Just by establishing migrant schools for the migrant children is not an effective plan to cure the roots of this problem, but can alleviate it for a limited amount of time. As the number of migrant children get larger and larger, the city will not be able to afford that many migrant children and migrant schools.

One proposal to ameliorate the issue of migrant children admissions in China is to reform and make alternatives to strict Household Registration system. Some cities, such as Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, are presenting a new system called Residence Point Permit System. This system is a reformed version of the Household Registration system where those who don't acquire the local Household Registration can apply for re-registration by earning points to meet the qualification line for a transfer in household residence. However this policy still has its limitations, as it does not apply to all of the migrant families who move to the cities. According to the Household Registration policy of Shanghai published by Eastday News – Shanghai Channel, it states that in order to be considered an eligible candidate for the Residence Point Permit System, the person has to live in Shanghai for at least seven years and pay the necessary social security annually (陈 [Chen]). However since most of the migrant workers themselves are uneducated, the firms or workplaces they work at do not pay the social security for them. Therefore many migrant workers are automatically eliminated from the Residence Point Permit System pool. This source has a high reliability compared to the human science experiments and investigations conducted because it is the official Household Registration Policy in China.

VII. Conclusion

As it is evident that establishing migrant schools is not effective enough and will not cure the problem of admissions brought to the migrant children, government should propose policies to captivate families in the villages and policies that will give them jobs with the same earnings in the rural areas. The families migrate in order to improve their earnings, if they have a sufficient level of income, then the bursting number of migrant children can slow down. The migrant children can also get a better education in the rural villages where there are no other kids to compete for the same resources. Government can also help allocate resources to the villages to assist education there. This policy will also be able to boost the overall economic development in the villages, which, in the long run, will help to boom the country's economy. Therefore instead of acquiring more resources in attempt to alleviate the problem of migrant children admissions in the urban cities, the Chinese government should better allocate the both human and financial resources to the suburban village to eliminate this problem while still giving the country's economy a boost.

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